

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
2500 NORTH LINCOLN BOULEVARD  
STATE BOARD ROOM, SUITE 1-20  
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA**

**July 25, 2019**

The State Board of Education met in regular session at 9:34 a.m. on Thursday, July 25, 2019, in the Board Room of the Oliver Hodge Education Building at 2500 North Lincoln Boulevard, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The final agenda was posted at 9:15 a.m. on Wednesday, July 24, 2019.

The following were present:

Mr. Brad Clark, General Counsel  
Ms. Terrie Cheadle, Chief Executive Secretary

Members of the State Board of Education present:

State Superintendent Joy Hofmeister, Chairperson of the Board  
Mr. Brian Bobek, Oklahoma City  
Mr. Barry "Kurt" Bollenbach, Kingfisher  
Mrs. Carlisha Williams Bradley, Tulsa  
Mrs. Estela Hernandez, Oklahoma City

Members of the State Board of Education not present:

Mr. William "Bill" Flanagan, Claremore  
Mrs. Jennifer Monies, Oklahoma City

Others in attendance are shown as an attachment.

**CALL TO ORDER  
ROLL CALL**

State Superintendent Joy Hofmeister called the State Board of Education regular meeting to order at 9:34 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Ms. Cheadle called the roll and ascertained there was a quorum.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, OKLAHOMA  
FLAG SALUTE, AND MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Superintendent Hofmeister led Board Members and all present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag, a salute to the Oklahoma Flag, and a moment of silence.

**STATE SUPERINTENDENT**

**Recognition of Oklahoma U.S. Presidential Scholars  
Sharara Kasem, Edmond North High School and  
Julian Zanders, Cascia Hall Preparatory School, Broken Arrow**

Superintendent Hofmeister presented Certificates of Recognition to Sharara Kasem and Julian Zanders, Oklahoma's distinguished 2019 U.S. Presidential Scholars recipients. The scholars program recognizes students nationwide for their accomplishments in scholastics, talent, art and career. In June, both scholars traveled to Washington, D.C. to attend the annual National Ceremony and received the U.S. Presidential Scholars Medallion.

Ms. Kasem, a graduate of Edmond North High School, scored a 35 (a near-perfect score) on the ACT. The distinguished senior is an active speech and debate participant, passionate about medicine, global health and human rights, and a lead writer of women's empowerment online platform and political journal "You GO Girl."

Sharara plans to attend Columbia University and become a surgeon focusing on public health. Mr. and Mrs. Kasem, parents; Principal, Debreon Davis and Superintendent, Bret Towne accompanied Ms. Kasem to the meeting.

Outstanding senior, Julian Zanders is a graduate of Cascia Hall Preparatory School in Broken Arrow and a former KUMON student. Mr. Zanders earned a perfect ACT score; is a National Merit Finalist; and nearly earned a perfect SAT score by one question. His activities include Robotics Team President, National Honor Society Member and Founder, Upper School Chess Club. He also includes piano, Brazilian jiu-jitsu and computer programming in his busy schedule.

In the fall, he will attend Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Mr. and Mrs. Zanders (Donald and Angela) and sister, Jacqueline accompanied Julian to the meeting.

## **Recognition of Department Employee for the month of July**

Superintendent Hofmeister recognized Justin Newton, Events Coordinator for Public Affairs as the employee for the month of July.

### **Information from the State Superintendent**

Superintendent Hofmeister provided updates on the Epic Charter School OSBI investigation and State Audit requests; EngageOK On the Road wrap-up; 2020 Teacher of the Year Finalists/September Ceremony; and National Principal's Conference-Boston.

## **BOARD ADMINISTRATIVE**

### **June 27, 2019 regular meeting minutes of the State Board of Education – Approved**

Board member Hernandez moved to approve the minutes of the June 27, 2019, regular meeting. Board member Bollenbach seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Ms. Hernandez, yes; Ms. Williams Bradley, yes; Mr. Bollenbach, yes; Mr. Bobek, yes; and Superintendent Hofmeister, yes.

### **CONSENT DOCKET - Approved**

Discussion and possible action on the following deregulation applications, statutory waivers, and exemptions for the 2019-2020 school year and other requests:

- (a) **Abbreviated School Day – OAC 210:35-29-2 and 210:35-3-46**  
Purcell Public Schools, McClain County
  
- (b) **Cooperative Agreements for Alternative Education Programs – 70 O.S. § 1210.568**  
Purcell Public Schools, McClain County  
Putnam City Public Schools, Oklahoma County  
(Evening Program)  
Putnam City Public Schools, Oklahoma County  
(SOAR Program)  
Reydon Public Schools, Roger Mills County  
Central Public Schools, Sequoyah County
  
- (c) **Library Media Services – OAC 210:35-5-71 and 210:35-9-71**  
Gracemont Public Schools, Caddo County  
Hinton Public Schools, Caddo County  
Elgin Public Schools, Comanche County  
Maysville Public Schools, Garvin County  
Mill Creek Public Schools, Johnston County  
Dover Public Schools, Kingfisher County  
Chandler Public Schools, Lincoln County  
Checotah Public Schools, McIntosh County  
Latta Public Schools, Pontotoc County  
Tecumseh Public Schools, Pottawatomie County

### **3 Years Request**

Friend Public Schools, Grady County  
Twin Hills Public Schools, Okmulgee County  
Pawnee Public Schools, Pawnee County  
Claremore Public Schools, Rogers County  
Gore Public Schools, Sequoyah County

- (d) **Library Media Specialist Certificate Exemption – 70 O.S. § 3-126**  
Bennington Public Schools, Bryan County  
Norman Public Schools, Cleveland County  
(Irving MS, Kennedy ES, Alcott MS)  
Edmond Public Schools, Oklahoma County  
Claremore Public Schools, Rogers County
- (e) **General Fund for Capital Expenditures – 70 O.S. § 1-117 and OAC 210:25-5-4**  
Bridge Creek Public Schools, Grady County  
Brushy Public Schools, Sequoyah County
- (f) Request approval on exceptions to State Board of Education  
Teacher certification regulations to permit issuance of emergency  
(provisional) certificates –**70 O.S. § 6-187**

Board member Bollenbach and Hernandez concurred that after review of the waivers some applications did not provide adequate information in order to make decisions and proper oversight. Consent Docket items and schools identified needing detailed information included **6(a) Abbreviated School Day**-Purcell; **6(b) Cooperative Agreements**-Purcell, Putnam City Evening and SOAR programs; **6(c) Library Media Services**-Gracemont, Dover, Chandler, Checotah, Latta; and **6(e) General Fund for Capital Expenditures**-Bridge Creek, Brushy.

Board members discussed and asked questions regarding waiver requests, emergency/provisional certificates applications and new guidance instruction; and new fall conference “Engage for Administrators.”

Brad Clark, General Counsel advised that a proper motion would be to table the identified Consent Docket items needing additional detailed information and vote to approve the remaining items.

Board member Bollenbach moved to approve the non-tabled items remaining on the Consent Docket. Board member Bobek seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Bobek, yes; Mr. Bollenbach, yes; Ms. Williams Bradley, yes; Ms. Hernandez, yes; and Superintendent Hofmeister, yes.

## **STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

### **Accreditation status and mandatory annexation of Swink Dependent Elementary School District, C-021 of Choctaw County -Approved**

Mr. Clark recapped the discussion on Swink Public School's current situation of at the June 27, 2019 State Board regular meeting. Mr. Clark reviewed Swink district location and surrounding school districts; school board June 2015-May 2019 financials; governing board and personnel resignations; inoperable noncompliant status; statutory compliance notices and timelines. Current activities reported included student transfers, teachers leaving, insurance lapse, school bus retrieved, minimal staff, and a local board meeting posted and convened; and OSDE July notice correspondence.

Mr. Clark recommended non-accrediting the Swink Dependent Elementary School District for the inability to comply with required state and federal laws and annexing Swink Dependent Elementary School to Fort Towson School District, Choctaw County, a four (4) mile neighboring school district.

A non-accrediting, standalone only option, does negatively impact the mechanism of the Consolidation Fund which provides additional funds with an annexation. If annexed, Fort Towson will receive approximately \$773,000 and remaining Swink employees will have access to and opportunity to receive severance.

Board members were advised approving non-accrediting and annexation immediately engages the department to notify families, community members and districts affected, as well as third party entities (banks, vendors, etc.).

Board members discussed and asked questions regarding student enrollments, prospective districts, county and community feedback.

### **SWINK PUBLIC SCHOOL PATRON PUBLIC COMMENT**

Lewis Collins, remaining Swink school board member, and Randall Irwin signed up to address the accreditation status and mandatory annexation of Swink Dependent Elementary School District.

Mr. Collins provided an account of activities by the former administrator, school board members, staff and community. He presented board members with the school district's June bank statements of accounts in efforts to verify the stability of the school finances due to alleged instability; June/July reply to OSDE correspondences and request for assistance letter. Mr. Collins declared publicly he was filing a formal complaint that Mr. Wall be sanctioned by the State Board of Education due to deliberately destroying a school district, and displacing teachers and student.

Mr. Irwin said he was a (former) Regional Accreditation Officer (RAO), (former) State Representative in the Swink district; and experienced 20 year school superintendent. He and Mr. Collins had known one another many years, and knew he is a most fiscally conservative administrator servant. Mr. Collins reached out to him for assistance, and after reviewing the Swink finances determined the district sharing a superintendent was not a

good move. Sharing a superintendent, normally, is a good thing to save money when in the best interest of both schools. Mr. Irwin explained his efforts/results to assist which included contacting resigned local board members, SDE-RAO, new board member search, and state government officials.

Superintendent Hofmeister said the State Board of Education (SBE) previously approved a request from Swink to allow them time to find a way to comply.

Board members discussed and asked questions regarding local board controls and approvals, certified financial documents, audits; certification suspension; Oklahoma law, legislative changes; accrediting (no action) consequences; and mandatory annexation timeline.

Board member Bollenbach motioned to non-accredit Swink Dependent Elementary School District and mandatorily annex Swink Dependent Elementary School to Fort Towson Public School District. Board member Williams Bradley seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Ms. Hernandez, yes; Ms. Williams Bradley, yes; Mr. Bollenbach, yes; Mr. Bobek, yes; and Superintendent Hofmeister, yes.

Board member Hernandez said more communications, awareness and school board district accountability oversight is also needed.

#### **School district and school site accreditation recommendations for the 2019-2020 school year - Approved**

Mr. Clark presented the accreditation recommendations of school districts and school sites for the 2019-2020 school year pursuant to 70 O.S. §§ 3-104.3 and OAC 210:35-3-201. State statutes require the State Board of Education (SBE) to adopt, implement and oversee standards and rules for accreditation of public schools and annual review. Mr. Clark reviewed mandates for district and sites accrediting status, classifications, and defined categories.

Board member Williams Bradley motioned to approve the school site and school district accreditation recommendations for the 2019-2020 school year. Board member Hernandez seconded the motion.

Board member Bollenbach requested a searchable format be provided for the 2020-2021 recommendations.

The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Bobek, yes; Mr. Bollenbach, yes; Ms. Williams Bradley, yes; Ms. Hernandez, yes; and Superintendent Hofmeister, yes.

**Resolve into Executive Session  
pursuant to 25 O.S. §§ 307 (B) (4) and (7) to discuss  
confidential communications with legal counsel concerning a pending  
investigation, claim, or action, concerning Epic Charter Schools when  
advised by legal counsel that disclosure of any additional information  
could seriously impair the ability to process or conduct the pending  
pending investigation and/or claim in the public interest- 25 O.S. §§  
307(B) (4) and (7)**

**Resolve into Executive Session**  
pursuant to 25 O. S. §§ 307 (B) (4) (7) and (8) for the  
purpose of discussing possible action to issue an emergency order  
summarily suspending the teacher certificates and certificate numbers  
of 1) Robert Davis and 2) Bart Daniel pending an individual  
proceeding for revocation or other action - 70 O.S. § 3-104;  
75 O.S. § 314; OAC 210-1-5-6

**Resolve into Executive Session**  
pursuant to 25 O.S. §§ 307 (B) (4) (7) and (8) for the  
purpose of discussing possible action to accept the Hearing Officer's  
proposed orders to revoke the teacher certificates and certificate numbers  
of 1) Joseph Kolt Palmer; 2) Corin N. Harris; 3) Vincent Chad Warford;  
and 4) Jeramy J. Gregston - 70 O.S. § 3-104; OAC 210-1-5-6

**Resolve into Executive Session**  
pursuant to 25 O.S. §§ 307 (B) (4) to discuss pending litigation,  
*Midwest City-Del City Independent School District #52, et al., and*  
*Western Heights Independent School District #I-1 v.*  
*Oklahoma State Department of Education, Joy Hofmeister,*  
*State Superintendent of Public Instruction; and Oklahoma State*  
*Board of Education, in the District Court of Oklahoma County,*  
CV-2016-1965 and CJ-2016-4826

**Resolve into Executive Session**  
pursuant to 25 O.S. § 307 (B) (4) to discuss pending litigation,  
*Midwest City-Del City Independent School District #52, et al.,*  
*and Western Heights Independent School District #I-1 v.*  
*Oklahoma State Department of Education, Joy Hofmeister,*  
*State Superintendent of Public Instruction; and Oklahoma*  
*State Board of Education, in the District Court of Oklahoma County,*  
CV-2016-1965 and CJ-2016-4826

Board member Bollenbach moved to convene into Executive Session at 11:41 a.m. Board member William Bradley seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Ms. Hernandez, yes; Ms. Williams Bradley, yes; Mr. Bollenbach, yes; Mr. Bobek, yes; and Superintendent Hofmeister, yes.

### **Return to Open Session**

Board member Bollenbach moved to return to Open Session at 12:48 p.m. Board member Williams Bradley seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Bobek, yes; Mr. Bollenbach, yes; Ms. Williams Bradley, yes; Ms. Hernandez, yes; and Superintendent Hofmeister, yes.

Superintendent Hofmeister said no decisions were made on the matters discussed in the Executive Session.

Board member Williams Bradley moved to accept the Hearing Officer's order to revoke the teacher certificates and certificate numbers of **Joseph Kolt Palmer, Corin N. Harris, Vincent Chad Warford and Jeramy J. Gregston.**

Board member Hernandez seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Ms. Hernandez, yes; Ms. Williams Bradley, yes; Mr. Bollenbach, yes; Mr. Bobek, yes; and Superintendent Hofmeister, yes.

Board member Bobek moved to issue emergency orders summarily suspending the teacher certificate and certificate number of **Robert Davis** and **Bart Daniel**. Board member Bollenbach seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Bobek, yes; Mr. Bollenbach, yes; Ms. Williams Bradley, yes; Ms. Hernandez, yes; and Superintendent Hofmeister, yes.

No action was taken on any other matter(s) discussed in Executive Session.

Brad Clark, General Counsel, Lori Murphy, Assistant General Counsel, Telana McCullough, Staff Attorney; Phil Bacharach, Chief of Staff, and Representative Sheila Dills and Common Education Committee member, remained in the Executive Session.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Board member Bobek moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:52 p.m. Board member Bollenbach seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Ms. Hernandez, yes; Ms. Williams Bradley, yes; Mr. Bollenbach, yes; Mr. Bobek, yes; and Superintendent Hofmeister, yes.

The next regular meeting of the State Board of Education will be held on Thursday, August 22, 2019, at 9:30 a.m. The meeting will convene at the State Department of Education-State Board Room, 2500 North Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

---

Joy Hofmeister, Chairperson of the Board

---

Terrie Cheadle, Chief Executive Secretary